GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:856
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2016
Erosion of Coastal Areas
Kumar Shri P.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mangrove forests prevent erosion in coastal areas especially during cyclones and typhoons;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government has any plan to increase the mangrove forests in coastal areas of the country;
(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
(e) the other steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.
Mangroves provide protection against cyclones and storms to the coastal areas. It is called Bio-shield against these natural calamities. Role of mangroves as protective cover to coastal areas has been studied and scientifically proved. The protective role of mangroves have been proved time and again e.g. during Orissa super cyclone in 1999 and Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2004.

(c) to (e) The Government seeks to protect, sustain and augment mangroves in the country by both promotional and regulatory measures:

? Under the promotional measures, the Ministry is operating a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Conservation and Management of Mangroves of India since 1987-88. Under the Scheme, the Ministry provides 100% (upto 2014-15 and in 60:40 central and state share from 2015-16 onwards) Central Assistance for the implementation of approved Management Action Plans (MAPs) for mangroves.

The MAP components are Survey, Assessment and Demarcation, Capacity Building : Staff Training and Skill; Shelter Belt Development; Protection & Monitoring; Restoration and Regeneration Measures; Alternate and Supplementary Livelihood; Community Participation; Mangrove Afforestation / Plantation (in degraded areas and open mud flats); Biodiversity Conservation; Sustainable Resources Development; De-silting; Weed Control; Pollution Control; Environmental Education & Awareness. According to State Forest Report - 2015, 112 km2 mangrove areas have been increased in comparison of SFR 2013. The Government has identified 38 mangrove sites along coastal areas for implementation of MAP. The State-wise list of 38 mangrove sites is attached as Annexure.I.

? Under the regulatory measures, the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 and Island Protection Zone Notification, 2015 provide, for appraisal of proposals with due consideration to protection of mangroves and also to prevent ecological imbalances and recognize, the mangrove areas as ecologically sensitive and categorize, them as Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ)-I which implies that these areas are afforded protection of the highest order.

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